

TELEGRAM

Department of State

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MARCH 8, 1961

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PRIORITY

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AFTER DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR DOWLING ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, DEFENSE MINISTER STRAUSS STAYED TO LAST AND EXPRESSED TO ME WITH SOME INTENSITY HIS APPREHENSIONS ABOUT A POSSIBLE BASIC CHANGE IN U.S. NUCLEAR DEFENSE STRATEGY, AS WELL AS HIS SUSPICIONS GERMANY IS NOT BEING TREATED AS A FULL AND EQUAL MEMBER OF WESTERN ALLIANCE.

STRAUSS POINTED TO GENERAL SPECULATION IN PRESS, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON STAR ABOUT A MEMORANDUM BY SECRETARY OF STATE. STRAUSS SAID HE HAD DONE WHAT HE COULD TO CLARIFY PUBLICLY POSITION OF FEDGOV, AND HAD TOLD HIS PEOPLE NOT TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES FURTHER IN PUBLIC DOMAIN.

WHILE PROTESTING THAT HE DID NOT PERSONALLY SHARE SUSPICIONS AND DOUBTS TO WHICH HE REFERRED, STRAUSS MADE IT CLEAR HE IN FACT DOES SO. HE ALLUDED TO KISSINGER'S GRADUATED DETERRENT THEORY, AND REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN HIS CONVICTION THERE MUST BE NO DIFFERENTIATION, OR SEPARATE MILITARY ORGANIZATION, BETWEEN TROOPS WITH NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES. HE STRESSED NUCLEAR DETERRENT MUST EXIST AND BEGIN ON EASTERN BORDER OF FEDREP. AMONG INDICATIONS OF A DANGEROUS TREND

SECRET

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Agency Case 3705660

NLE Case 98-399-13

By 11/2/94

NLE Date 11/2/94

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IN CURRENT THINKING ON WESTERN DEFENSE STRATEGY, STRAUSS MENTIONED AN ALLEGED TURN-DOWN OF HIS OFFER TO PROVIDE AN HONEST JOHN UNIT AS PART OF FEDGOV'S CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL NORSTAD'S MOBILE FIRE BRIGADE PROPOSAL.

1. REMINDED HIM THAT STUDIES NOW GOING ON IN WASHINGTON HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSURANCE THAT AN INCREASE IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES WOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF NUCLEAR DETERRENT, BUT WOULD RATHER STRENGTHEN MOBILITY AND BALANCE OF WESTERN DEFENSE. 1 SUGGESTED STRAUSS MAKE SURE THAT HIS VIEWS ARE MADE KNOWN IN DETAIL TO WASHINGTON.

STRAUSS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CHANCELLOR HAD EXPRESSED NO CONCERN TO ME ON THIS SUBJECT VIEWS HE, STRAUSS, WAS EXPRESSING WERE SNARED BY CHANCELLOR.

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